

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT	)	
OF THE COST SUPPORT MATERIAL FILED	)	
WITH THE CONTRACT ARRANGEMENT FOR	)	CASE NO. 96-237
LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY FILED WITH	)	
THE COMMISSION ON MAY 29, 1996	)	

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), filed May 29, 1996, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost support data developed in connection with a special service arrangement contract with the Louisville Water Company for provision of Simple Network Management Protocol ("SNMP"), an option associated with Native Mode LAN Interconnection ("NMLI") Service, on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause BellSouth competitive injury, and it appearing to this Commission as follows:

BellSouth has contracted with the Louisville Water Company to provide SNMP, an option feature of NMLI. This feature allows customers to access information concerning the traffic flowing across their NMLI service, and is not currently offered in the tariff. In support of its application, BellSouth has provided cost data which it seeks to protect as confidential.

The information sought to be protected is not known outside of BellSouth and is not disseminated within BellSouth except to those employees who have a legitimate business need to know and act upon the information. BellSouth seeks to preserve and protect the

confidentiality of the information through all appropriate means, including the maintenance of security at its offices.

KRS 61.872(1) requires information filed with the Commission to be available for public inspection unless specifically exempted by statute. Exemptions from this requirement are provided in KRS 61.878(1). That subsection of the statute exempts several categories of information. One category exempted in paragraph (c)1 of that subsection is commercial information confidentially disclosed to the Commission which if made public would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the party from whom the information was obtained. To qualify for the exemption, the party claiming confidentiality must demonstrate actual competition and a likelihood of substantial competitive injury if the information is disclosed. Competitive injury occurs when disclosure of the information gives competitors an unfair business advantage.

NMLI, of which SNMP is a feature, is an alternative to dedicated private line networks. BellSouth's competitors for this service are providers of fiber networks. Disclosure of the information sought to be protected would enable such competitors to determine BellSouth's cost and contribution from the service, which they could use to market their competing services to the detriment of BellSouth. Therefore, disclosure of the information is likely to cause BellSouth competitive injury, and the information should be protected as confidential.


This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,


IT IS ORDERED that the cost support data filed in support of a special service arrangement contract with the Louisville Water Company for SNMP, which BellSouth has


petitioned to be withheld from public disclosure, shall be held and retained by this Commission as confidential and shall not be open for public inspection.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 28th day of June, 1996.


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director